

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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FOL REPEAT YAOUNDE 2478 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA CAIRO
GABARONE DTD 11 JUN.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: FIRST SESSION PERMANENT COMMISSION OF ARAB-AFRICAN
COOPERATION: DISCUSSIONS AND COMMENT.

REF: (A) YAOUNDE 2438, (B) YAOUNDE 2358, (C) YAOUNDE 2311

(D) STATE 67176, (E) STATE 46135

1. SUMMARY: COMMITTEE 24 ARAB-AFRICAN COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES
MET YAOUNDE MAY 30-JUNE 1 TO ESTABLISH MACHINERY IMPLEMENT
DECISIONS TAKEN CAIRO AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT. RESOLUTIONS COVERING
BUDGET, RULES OF PROCEDURE AND RHODESIAN AGGRESSION ADOPTED (REFTEL
A). MECHANISM ESTABLISHED FOR DISBURSEMENT OF \$11 MILLION DONATED FOR
LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND PROJECTS CERTAIN SECTORS TO BE GIVEN
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PRIORITY CONSIDERATION. NEXT MEETING EXPECTED TO BE HELD CAIRO
NOVEMBER 1977. EMD SUMMARY

2. AMID SOME CONFUSION AS TO EXACTLY WHO WAS MEETING DUE ERRONEOUS
NEWSPAPER REPORTS, IT FINALLY ESTABLISHED THAT GROUP OF TWENTY-
FOUR OAU-AL MEMBERS (REFTEL D) VARIOUSLY CHARACTERIZED AS
AFRO-ARAB COOPERATIVE STANDING COMMISSION, PERMANENT COMMISSION

OF ARAB-AFRICAN COOPERATION AND STANDING COMMITTEE ON AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION MET YAOUNDE MAY 30-JUNE 1. IT APPARENTLY NOW ACCEPTED THAT GROUP OF 24 WILL GO UNDER NAME OF PERMANENT COMMISSION OF ARAB-AFRICAN COOPERATION. COMMISSION CONSISTS OF 12 EACH "AFRICAN"(ALGERIA, BURUNDI, BOTSWANA, CAMEROON, EGYPT, SIERRA LEONE, TANZANIA, GHANA, SUDAN, ZAIRE, SENEGAL AND MALI) AND "ARAB" (LEBANON, KUWAIT, UAE, LIBYA, SAUDI ARABIA, SOMALIA, SYRIA, TUNISIA, PALESTINE, MOROCCO, MAURITANIA AND IRAQ) STATES, PLUS SECRETARIES GENERAL OF OAU AND AL. THE CHAIRMAN OF ARAB GROUP (TAHIR RUDWAN, SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO AL) AND AFRICAN GROUP (MUEGE, BOTSWANA FOREIGN MINSITER) ALTERNATE AS CHAIRMAN OF MEETINGS OF COMMISSION. COMMISSION WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED MEET FOR FIVE DAYS, BUT DUE GURC LEGISLATIVE SESSION, COULD ONLY USE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR TWO DAYS AND MET THIRD DAY IN ANOTHER VENUE IN ORDER ATTEMPT RESOLVE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS. MEETING SUPPOSED TO BE HELD ADDIS. BUT, BECAUSE PRESENT ETHIOPIAN CONDITIONS, GURC OFFER HOST MEETINGS(SECTY GEN OAU IS CAMEROONIAN) WAS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS OF MINISTERS (EGYPT, BOTSWANA, GHANA AND CAMEROON), MOST COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL. NEXT MEETING EXPECTED CAIRO NOVEMBER 1977. IN THEORY COMMISSION SUPICSED TO MEET EACH SIX MONTHS, ALTERNATING BETWEEN ADDIS AND CAIRO. FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET EVERY EIGHTEEN MONTHS AND HEADS OF STATE EVERY THREE YEARS.

3. CONFUSION ALSO APPARENT IN ATTEMPTING ASCERTAIN EXACTLY WHAT WAS DECIDED. CONVERSATIONS WITH ALGERIAN, CAMEROONIAN, EGYPTIAN, SAUDI AND SENEGALESE SOURCES INDICATE ALGERIANS BELIEVE A LOT MORE WAS DECIDED THAN DO SAUDIS. BRITISH AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GERMAN COUNTERPARTS SKEPTICAL ANYTHING ASIDE FROM BUDGET REALLY SETTLED.

4. THERE GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT ELEVEN MILLION DOLLARS PLEDGED AT CAIRO FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE AS SOON AS REQUESTED BY OAU FOR AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY OAU AND AL. ALGERIAN CHARGE BELIEVES JULY LIBREVILLE CHIEFS OF STATES MEETING WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS.

5. ACCORDING TO ALGERIAN CHARGE, THERE IS TO BE FUND OF APPROXIMATELY \$33 MILLION TO FINANCE FEASIBILITY STUDIES, PRIMARILY IN TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, BUT ALSO POSSIBLY FOR DATA BANK AND NATURAL RESOURCE RESEARCH. TRANSPORT EMPHASIS TO BE PLACED ON COMPLETING TWO EAST-WEST ROUTES FROM DAKAR TO MOMBASSA AND THROUGH NDJAMENA TO MASSAUA. NORTH-SOUTH ROUTES ARE TO RUN FROM ALGIERS THROUGH NIGER AND MALI AND FROM TRIPOLI TO NDJAMENA. TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT INCLUDES PANAFTEL PROJECT FOR SATELLITE TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATIONS USING 12 GHZ BAN BASED ON DISCUSSIONS KHARTOUM MEETING NOVEMBER 1976. DATA BANK IS PROJECT TO CENTRALIZE ALL ECONOMIC

DATA ON AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT IN ONE PLACE(PROBABLY ECA) WHERE IT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO POTENTIAL DONORS. NATURAL RESOURCE RESEARCH IF PROJECT OT USE SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY(SIMILAR OUR LANDSAT) IDENTIFY POTENTIALLY EXPLOITABLE RESOURECES. FEASIBILITY STUDIES TO BE CARRIED OUT PRIMARILY BY ARAB BANK FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF AFIRCA(BADEA-KHARTOUM).

6. ALL DELEGATES CONSULTED AGREED THAT THERE WERE MORE PROJECTS ALREADY IN THE WORKS THAN AVAILABLE FUNDS. SAUDI CAHRGE CLAIMED BADEA ALRADY STUDYING SOME 150 PROJECTS. HE EVNISIONED POSSIBILITY NUMBER OF JINT PROJECTS WITH BAD, FED, WORLD BANK, USAID, ETC., AND NOT CARVING OUT NUMBER OF EXCLUSIVE PROJECT AREAS.

7. WHEN I ATTEMPTED TO INQUIRE AS TO HOW ONE WOULD OBTAIN LOAN FROM THIS FUND, THE PROCEDURE OUTLINED WORKED SOMETHING LIKE THIS: (A) FIRST TAKE PROJECT PAPTERS TO BADEA FOR A FEASIBILITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUTDY;(B) BADEA WOULD MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO THE INDIVIDUAL ARAB DEVELOPMENT FUNDS;(C) DISBURESMENT AND REPAYMENT WOULD BE ON BILATERAL BASIS FROM DEVELOPMENT FUND TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY. HOWEVER, IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT BADEA MAY CONSULT WITH OTHER OGRANIZATIONS SUCH AS AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK(BAD-ABIDJAN) AND ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA-ADDIS) AND THAT CONSULTATIONS ON WHO SUPPORTS WHICH PROJECT WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN ARAB DONOR STATES, PRESUMABLY THROUGH AL. THIS PROCEDURE IS PROVISIONAL AT BEST AND MAY BE CHANGED BY NOVEMBER MEETING. REAL CRUX OF MATTER IS THAT SAUDIS AND KUWAITIS STILL WISH MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER WHERE THEIR MONEY GOES, NOT ONLY WITH RESPECT TO COUNRTIRES BUT ALSO PROJECTS. ALGERIANS, ON OTHER HAND, SUPPORTED BY GHANA AND SIERRA LEONE, ATTEMPTED ESTABLISH ROLE FOR BAD AND ECA NOT ONLY IN PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDIES, BUT ALSO IN LOAN DISBURESEMENT.

8. A NUMBER OF SUB-COMMITTEES AND/OR WORKING GROUPS ARE TO BE ESTABLISHED. THERE IS A SUB-COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL COOPERATION AND FOUR WORKING GROUPS(ORIGINALLY EIGHT) ARE TO COVER FIELDS OF TRANSPORTATION, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, HEALTH, INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION. ALGERIANS ATTEMPTED CUT SIZE OF GROUPS TO 12, BUT OTHERS PREVAILED ON OPENING MEETINGS TO WHOMEVER WISHED TO ATTEND(REFTEL C). HOWEVER, REAL WORK OF GETTING MACHINERY GOING APPEARS TO FALL ON COORDINATING COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF CHAIRMEN OF ARAB GROUP (TAHIR RUDWAN, SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO AL) AND AFRICAN GROUP (MUEGE, FOREIGN MINISTER OF BOTSWANA) AND COMPOSED OF SECRETARIES GENERAL OF OAU AND AL.

9. COMMENT: WHILE OPENING SPEECHES GAVE RHETORICAL SUPPORT SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND PALESTINE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, THERE NO

INDICATION THAT THERE ANY ATTEMPT BEYOND INTERVENTION OF
BOTSWANA FOREIGN MINISTER AND ENSUING RESOLUTION (REFTEL A) TO
INTERJECT ARAB OR AFRICAN ISSUES OUTLINED REFTTEL E INTO
PROCEEDINGS. BIGGEST ACHIEVEMENT OF MEETING WAS FACT THAT
COMMITTEE COULD SIT DOWN AND BEGIN TO WORK OUT PROCEDURES FOR ARAB-
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AFRICAN(BELIEVE PUTTING ARAB BEFORE AFRICAN MAY BE MORE THAN JUST
COURTESY, BUT WILL HAVE TO AWAIT FURTHER MEETINGS TO ASCERTAIN
FULL SIGNIFICANCE) COOPERATION WITHOUT BECOMING HOPELESSLY
EMBROILED IN SIDE ISSUES. ALL OBERSVERS FROM THEIR PERCEPTION
VIEWED CONFERENCE AS SUCCESS, CAMEROONIANS THINK THEY PULLED
OFF IMPORTANT MEETING ON SHORT NOTICE SUCCESSFULLY IN SPITE
CONFLICHT WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETING. THEY AND OTHER AFRICAN
COUNTRIES BELIEVE THEY HAVE DEVELOPED MACHINERY TO TAP \$1.46 BILLION
FUND. ALGERIANS THINK THEY PLAYED LEADERSHIP ROLE IN HELPING
AFRICAN COUNTRIES ACHIEVE THIS GOAL. HOWEVER, SAUDIS MAINTAIN THEY
HAVE NOT CONCEDED ANYTHING. THUS, THE BASIC PROBLEM REMAINS THAT
SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT WISH TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER WHICH
COUNTRIES GET FUNDS AND FOR WHAT PROJECTS, WHILE AFRICAN COUNTRIES
SUPPORTED BY ALGERIA WISH SIMPLIFY AND SPEED UP PROCEDURES.
ONE OCCASION SAUDIS STATED THEY WOULD NOT PERMIT THEIR MONEY TO GO
TO SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, BUT AT ANTOTHER THEY SAID THAT THEY WERE
"OPEN" TO SUGGESTIONS. ALGERIA, WITH SUPPORT GHANA AND SIERRA
LEONE, ATTEMPTED ESTABLISH MORE MULTILATERAL UMBRELLA(S) TO
ADMINISTER LOANS (SEE PARA 7 ABOVE). ALGERIANS INTERPRETED SAUDI
REMARK THAT THEY OPEN TO MEAN THAT SAUDI POSITION FLEXIBLE AND
COULD BE CHANGED, BUT SAUDI CHARGE GAVE IMPRESSION THAT WHILE OTHER
ORGANS, PARTICULARLY BADEA, MAY HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY IN ASCERT-
AINING PROJECT FEASIBILITY, SAUDIS STILL LOOK UPON THEIR OFFER
OF ASSISTANCE AS ESSENTIALLY BILATERAL IN CHARACTER. ALGERIAN CHARGE
SAID HE TRIED MAKE POINT THAT GRIROUP WAS NOT ACCOUNTANTS AND
SHOULD TAKE POLITICAL DECISIONS, BUT CLEARLY SAUDIS WISH REMAIN
CASHIERS. FOR THIS REASON, IT MAY BE SOME TIME (AT LEAST NOVEMBER,
MAYBE LONGER) BEFORE ANY OF THE \$1.46 BILLION PLEDGED CAIRO SUMMIT
SPILLS OUT PIPELINE.

10. DEPARTMENT PLEASE INFORM OTHER POSTS AS DESIRED.
MITHOEFER

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